qualification for the post of Assistant Archaeologist (AA) in Archaeological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, how many students holding the Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology are given jobs in Archaeological Survey of India since the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The posts of Assistant Archaeologist are filled up through Union Public Service Commission. The candidates possessing the Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology and coming within the prescribed age limit as per the existing recruitment rules are eligible to apply for the said post in response to the advertisement made by Union Public Service Commission. Since no recruitment to the said post could be made during the last three years, no such student has been appointed so far.

New Scheme for the Development of Towns

1250. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for the integrated development of small and medium towns in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Since the year 1979-80, the Centrally sponsored Plan Scheme of Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT) has been in operation in all States. The IDSMT Scheme aims at improvement of the physical and economic infrastructure and other essential facilities and services in small and medium towns identified in order of priority by the concerned State Govts. so as to enable these towns to emerge as regional centres of economic growth, productivity and employment. The idea behind developing these towns is to place them in a position from where they could effectively serve the rural hinterland and ultimately help in checking the migration of population from rural areas & urban centres to big towns/ metropolitan cities as a part of the national policy of dispersed urbanisation.

Government have recently re-formulated the guidelines for implementing the IDSMT Scheme and approval of the Cabinate has been obtained. Details of the revised guidelines are annexed as Statement.

Statement

Some of the important elements in the revised guidelines of IDSMT Scheme are:

(i) IDSMT will be extended to towns with population upto 5 lakhs.

(ii) Institutional Finance Component under the Scheme will be limited to between 20% to 40% of the projects cost depending upon the population of the town.

(iii) IDSMT will be linked to Town Development Plan and State Urban Development Strategy.

(iv) Projects will be taken in a judicious mix-remunerative, cost recovery and non-remunerative projects.

(v) Each town will be required to create a Revolving fund and 75% of the grants released under the Scheme should flow back from projects to the fund.

(vi) Sanctioning of the IDSMT projects will be done by a Committee at the State level.

(vii) Project cost as per the new guidelines will very between Rs. 100 lakhs and Rs. 750 lakhs, maximum Central

*Expunged, as ordered by the Chair.

assistance between Rs. 48 lakhs and Rs. 270 lakhs, and State share between Rs. 32 lakhs and Rs. 180 lakhs depending upon the category of town. Central and State share will be in the form of grants.

(viii) In order to enable the municipalities (of towns proposed for inclusion under IDSMT) to prepare Town Development (Investment) Plans and IDSMT Project Reports, advance grant in aid will be released to State Govts. on a 60 (Central grant): 40 (State grant) basis with total cost restricted to Rs. 3, 4, 5 & 6 lakhs in the case of towns having population upto 50,000, between 50,000 to 1 lakh, between 1 to 3 lakhs, and between 3 to 5 lakhs respectively.

(ix) Towns with population between 50,000 to 1 lakh which will be covered under the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (IUPEP), will not be covered under IDSMT. However, projects for these towns will be taken up following both IDSMT and IUPEP guidelines.

Task force for Urban Development Policy

1251. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a task to formulate an Urban Development Policy;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the present policy relating to urban development;

(c) whether State Governments are also being represented in the task force if so, the number and names of the members of the task force;

(d) by when the task force is likely to be constituted and submit its report;

(e) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended to the Central Government to earmark funds for spending by municipalities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment have jointly set up a National Task Force on Urban Perspective and Policies keeping in view the need to formulate an urban development policy. The terms of reference of the TAsk Force include developing a perspective on urbanisation for the next 2-3 decades in a spatial and inter-sectoral framework, evolving a long terms strategy for urban development contributing to the economic development in a sustainable framework, etc.

(b) The Members Secretary, Planning Commission is the Chairman of the Task force and the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment is the Vice-Chairman. Representatives of the Central Ministries of Finance, Environment, rural Development, Surface Transport, Industries and other experts in the urban sector are members of the Task Force. Three technical groups (i) on Urban Perspective and Policy, (ii) on Planning System and (iii) Financing of Urban Infrastructure will assist the Task Force. As regards the present policy relating to urban development, the 8th Plan document envisages a two-pronged strategy viz. (i) generation of employment opportunities and creation of better facilities in rural areas through the implementation of schemes like integrated of schemes like integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), etc. and (ii) development of small and medium towns with basic infrastructure for creating more employment opportunities there through the scheme of Integrated Development of small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) and creation of employmeht opportunities for the urban poor through the scheme of Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY). In respect of larger Metropolitan cities, the present policy is to assist them in